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4 March 2016

## From the Principal

What an exciting, positive and productive start Georges River College Peakhurst Campus has had to the 2016 academic school year! It is my pleasure to welcome back, not only all the familiar faces, but to also welcome all our Year 7 students and all other new students (from Years 8-10) and their families to our school community.

I would also like to welcome new staff joining our school staff team. We welcome to our team: Mr Smithard (Maths), Ms Ashfaq (Science), Ms Beatriz (TAS), Ms Testa (TAS), Mr Page (Music), Ms Michael (PDHPE), Mr Williams (Maths) and Ms Radman (Special Education). All our new teachers come to our school with a wealth of experiences and a range of skills that will further enrich and enhance the quantity and quality of educational opportunities for students. We look forward to their contributions throughout the year.

It is fantastic to see our students arriving at school very eager and ready to learn. Our students are in full school uniform, punctual to school and class, and enthusiastically looking forward to taking advantage of the learning opportunities they will be presented within each lesson. I would also like to thank parents/caregivers for their ongoing support of their child and the school in such matters.

Our students are 21st Century learners and, as such, I am looking forward to the introduction and implementation of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device). This will support the integration of Information Communication Technology (ICT), strengthen teaching and learning programs and highlight the importance of digital citizenship. We thank Ms Keir for her leadership in delivering such a wonderful initiative to enhance the teaching and learning within our school.

We can only fulfil our potential if we are feeling safe and supported and hence the Wellbeing programs in our school are of vital importance at all times. I'd like to thank the staff – particularly Ms Walton, Ms Talevski, Mr Wilson and Ms Northey – for the organisation, implementation and support of the Year

7 Orientation and Peer Support programs. Other Wellbeing initiatives that are currently being delivered include the SWITCH Program (for Years 8 & 9) and the SHINE program (for Years 8 & 9). These programs aim to support our students in becoming critical thinkers, developing communication skills, being resilient, responsible and empowered citizens. Also, I urge Year 7 parents to take advantage of the upcoming Student Eyecare program, where students may get their eyes tested for free, in order to identify any undiagnosed vision problems. It is alarming to learn of how many students can get by in a classroom, despite having vision related problems such as poor concentration, fatigue and headaches. So again, please take advantage of this free service.

A highlight for me, so far this year, has been the sensational swimming carnival held at Roselands pool on Friday 19th February. The school community was a sight to behold! There were beaming faces, lots of colour and a carnival type atmosphere of genuine excitement, enthusiasm and energy. The success of such a huge whole-school event is a testament to the organisation and hard work of staff – particularly the PDHPE faculty – and the positive and genuine approach of our staff, students and their families. Congratulations to the winners of events – but also to all those who participated and contributed to this spectacular event.

A more formal event and highlight was our formal assembly, held on Friday 12th February, for the induction of our 2016 School Representative Council (SRC) student leaders. We have a great team of aspirational and emerging school leaders who will carve their own path and represent our school and their peers in the GRC Peakhurst way – with great pride and distinction!

Our school Captains, Caleb and Tamara, and Vice Captains, Stelios and Erica, have begun their term by visiting NSW Parliament House on Tuesday 23rd February 2016. They had the honour of meeting and lunching with NSW Premier Mike Baird and our local MP Mark Coure. I am sure that all the SRC leaders, with the guidance and support of our SRC coordinator, Ms Osmond, will actively contribute to raising the quality of school life here at GRC Peakhurst Campus.

Finally, I was heartened and proud to see the overwhelming number of people who attended our GRC Peakhurst Open Night on Tuesday, 23rd February 2016. One never knows how many people from the community are interested in finding out about our school and perhaps consider enrolling their child in our school. However, it is clear that the word is out there - GRC Peakhurst is a fantastic school! As I told the many parents I spoke to on the night, it is the people in this school that make it special. The staff (teaching and administration) is hardworking, professional and passionate about education and student learning. They are willing to learn and keep their skills and understandings current and they genuinely care about the students. The students are friendly, open minded and supportive of each other and aim to be the best they can be at all times. Their families are equally supportive of their child and of the school. When issues and concerns arise, we deal with them, quickly. We should all make the most of being in such a great school.

Have a wonderful term, everyone!

**Terry Vallis**  
**Principal**

## Deputies' Report

Welcome to 2016. In particular, we would like to welcome the new parents to our school, especially our new Year 7 parents. We trust that over the next four years, we can develop a positive relationship with you to ensure the best learning outcomes for your child are achieved.

On Tuesday 8th March, we will be holding the Year 7 Meet the Teacher afternoon/evening from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. This will be held outside the school hall and will include a sausage sizzle and informal discussion with staff. We hope that you take this opportunity to meet with your child's teachers and gain valuable insight into how we will assist your child to achieve their personal best. Year 7 progress reports will also be distributed to parents on the night.

All year groups have now been provided with their 2016 Assessment Guide. This guide contains important and valuable information on assessment procedures and outlines specific assessment tasks for each subject area. Parents are requested to read the additional assessment procedures leaflet, sign and return it to your child's year advisor as soon as possible. The assessment guides are also available on the school website.

This term, GRC Peakhurst will be participating in the 'Tell Them From Me' student survey. The aim of this survey is to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. Students will complete this confidential survey between now and the end of the term. A consent form about the survey will be sent home to parents shortly.

By sending your child to Georges River College Peakhurst Campus, you would be aware that we are a uniform school. It is the student's responsibility to wear their full uniform to school each day. We encourage parents to ensure their child / children

comply with our uniform policy. Students who take pride in their uniform also show pride in their school.

Positive Behaviour for Learning, known as PBL, is an integral part of Georges River College Peakhurst Campus. Through consultation with staff, parents, students and the wider community, a set of values has been developed and agreed upon that underpin the day to day operations of our school. We value, Respect, Responsibility and Excellence at GRC Peakhurst. We encourage parents to discuss these values with their children. Specific information regarding our values and expectations can be found in student diaries and on the school website.

We look forward to working with you and your children this year and invite you to contact the Year Advisor or the Deputy Principals if you have any concerns.

**Holly Northey - Deputy Principal Years 7 & 9**

**Scott Wilson - Deputy Principal Years 8 & 10**

## Year 7 Advisor's Report

Welcome to our first newsletter.

This year will be the start for our Year 7 students embarking on an exciting time in high school where they will meet new people, create new friendships and start their new journey of lifelong learning.

As Year Advisor my role is to help guide the Year 7 students through the next four years at GRC Peakhurst and be of assistance to them in any capacity regarding welfare, implementing health care plans if they have a medical condition as well as being the first point of contact with parents if you have any concerns about your child's academic, behavioural or welfare needs.

You are able to come see me if you require anything in E block in the English staff room before school, recess and lunch.

Our school is a PBL School- Positive Behaviour for Learning and our core values are Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. These values are the core of student's everyday learning and behavioural expectations. We will strive to work with your children to help them achieve excellence and support them in all areas.

It is important that your child comes to school each day organised and prepared with all correct equipment for each subject and in full school uniform.

We have a homework centre which runs every Monday and Tuesday afternoons this term. It is a place where students can use the school library, resources and receive help from teachers with homework or assessments.

We will also run regular Year Advisor Program days throughout the year where students participate in different activities and programs and be acknowledged for their achievements at school.

Your child's school diary is one of their most important organisational and learning tools. It allows them to refer to their timetable, record homework and assessments and has important information including our school policies and

departmental procedures and contact details. Parents are encouraged to check their child's diary regularly and use it as a means of communication between school and home.

Additionally the school website and school app are on line tools for parents and students to refer to for important events, information about subject assessments tasks and important information including our school policies, procedures and contact details.

We also offer support for students needing to bridge the gap. Jennifer Jarman is the Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) responsible for Year 7 and may be contacted if you have any concerns about your child's academic performance, assessment tasks and homework.

You are encouraged to make contact with your child's teachers directly if you have any concerns about your child's academic performance, assessment tasks and homework.

Important dates to remember:

### **Year 7 Parents and Students Meet the Teachers**

Date: 8th March 2016  
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Year 7 Area

Please return all notes with numbers attending to Mrs Northey. Student progress reports will be available for parents to see how their child is adapting to Year 7 Advisor. If there are any issues of concern, these can be discussed with the relevant teachers your child has on the day.

It is also an opportunity to meet me, the Deputy Principal and principal.

### **Verbal Combat- an Anti/ Bullying Drama Performance**

Date: 6th April 2016  
Cost: \$6.00

This event is compulsory and all students must attend. Notes will be distributed in Weeks 6-7 with payment due at the end of Week 8.

NAPLAN will be held in Term 2 and staff will assist students in their preparation this term and early Term 2.

Exciting new and photos from Year 7 camp will be published in the next newsletter.

**Alice Talevski**  
**Year 7 Advisor**

## **Year 8 Advisor's Report**

Welcome back and a special welcome to all our new Year 8 students and their families. I hope you all had a relaxing break and are ready for a productive and enjoyable year ahead. Again, I look forward to working with all Year 8 students and getting to know them better.

Year 8 have settled into the new year and are working well. As the first assessment tasks are approaching, I would like to remind students that it is essential to complete ALL tasks in

class and at home so that teachers can observe as many of their skills, knowledge and abilities as possible.

Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to help students with their organisation at home by:

- Asking to see your child's diary regularly
- Checking that diary entries are being made and followed up
- Asking your child to explain what their next assignment is about
- Helping them plan their use of time
- Encouraging a regular place and time to do homework

Over the course of 2016, Year 8 will be involved in several YAP (Year Advisor's Program) sessions, which aim to address various issues that young people are faced with. Further information on each session will be sent home closer to the particular dates.

Finally, if there is a welfare concern or issue that needs to be addressed, please do not hesitate to contact me. Students can locate me in the Special Education Staffroom in F-Block.

Happy learning!

**Julia Picone**  
**Year 8 Advisor**

## **Year 9 Advisor's Report**

It has been a very productive and busy start to Term 1. I am very pleased with the excellent effort and attendance Year 9 has demonstrated. Keep up the good work.

Year 9 and 10 are extremely important school years. It is now the time that students must look forward and plan to successfully complete the ROSA. The foundations for senior study or transition to work are now being formed. Please encourage your child to stay focused and to strive for their personal best.

**James Cooper**  
**Year 9 Advisor**

### **Georges River College – Peakhurst Campus**

Everyone expects the transition from Year 8 to Year 9 to be very difficult but it's quite the opposite. To kick-start the year, as a part of our P.D.H.P.E. Practical Assessment, Year 9 students were to complete a set of specific basic gymnastic skills. Financial mathematics is very beneficial for adulthood, hence the reason as to studying that topic for Maths. As for English; novels shall be read, chapter questions shall be answered and the rest is history. Meanwhile, in History, we learnt about the revolution that changed it all... the Industrial Revolution. In Geography, we all continue to excel with our mapping skills which we use in Science to visualise/indicate the spread of introduced species throughout Australia.

On the 19th February, the annual GRC Peakhurst Campus Swimming Carnival was held and I can easily say it was a great success. The sky was free of clouds, the birds were singing their songs, and well, so were the house colour teams, but of



course Freeman was the best. Overall, everyone got involved which means that GRC Peakhurst will be sending a lot of our students to district. The more the better! That's the saying, right?

It was the night of the 23rd of February where the future students of GRC Peakhurst attended an open night from 6:00-8:30pm and what a great success it was. The impressive number of future GRC Peakhurst students that turned up was outstanding as were the speakers/teachers who spoke about each faculty. Just ask Mr Zouroudis about the English Faculty.

All in all, the commencement of the 2016 school year has been exciting, let's just wait and see what the SRC, as well as the rest of the school teachers have planned for us students. Seeing that the launch of this year has boomed with exhilaration, I'm just wondering how else we, as a school, can raise the bar by making the year ahead as exhilarating as it has been so far. Then again, we are the one and only GRC PEAKHURST!

**Monique Ilov Yr. 9**

## Year 10 Advisor's Report

Parents/Carers and Guardians

Year 10, welcome back for our final year at GRC Peakhurst Campus.

My name is Sophia Favuzzi and I will be the Year Advisor for this Year 10 cohort. It is a privilege working with this group of students as Year 10 Advisor as I taught most of them in Year 7 and have spent a lot of time with many of the students over the years.

### RoSA

Mr Vallis spoke in great depth to the students regarding their RoSA and what the requirements are. By now all parents and Carers should have read and signed the white form and your child returned it to me.

### Attendance

It is imperative that your child attends school and is on time. Please make sure that your child has a note signed and brought back to school on the return of their absence.

### Time Organisation

Students need to put a study timetable together and plan carefully when assessments are due. It has come to my attention from students the pressures they may be feeling. Please support and help your child, if you can, to organise some sort of study timetable.

### Mentor

This year every year 10 student has been asked to nominate 5 Mentor's in order of priority and return the yellow note to Mr Wilson.

Year 10 I wish you all a successful year. Use your time wisely and effectively. If you need help or support with anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Mrs Sophia Favuzzi**  
**Year 10 Advisor**

## Careers Report

Welcome back, it is great to see that students have returned from the Christmas break refreshed and ready for work.

### Year 10 Careers Classes

Year 10 have been working with me to develop their Resume's, they have engaged in a series of lessons to provide them with the key skills related to Cover Letter and Resume writing. In addition, they have been investigating the "world of work" and what is on offer to them. I have been encouraging all students to start planning their future pathways. All Year 10 students have initiated Transition planning, and they will continue to develop their plans and ideas with my guidance as the year progresses. I would encourage you to start discussing with your child their future plans and aspirations.

### Work Experience

I have informed all Year 10 students that work experience is available to them each term. Students can engage in work experience for a one week block. I will assess the suitability of proposed placements and arrange the necessary paperwork and forms that accompany this process. If your child is interested in this process please refer them to me for a meeting to discuss the ideas they have.

### Part Time or Casual Work

If your child is interested in work, I can assist them to find employment. This type of work can be extremely valuable in terms of experience and transferable skills. However, students need to remain cautious so as to balance work and study. The casual or part time work should not interfere with your child's study and progress at school. If managed correctly, it can complement their routine.

### Coffee School

The Professional Barista training has been scheduled for the beginning of Term 2. This is an excellent course. Year 10 students will be given the first opportunity. It can be very valuable in terms of gaining part-time or casual work, in the Hospitality industry.

### Tax File Number

I am no longer able to process Tax file numbers for students due to a change in the process. However, I can assist by providing the information related to submitting an application. If your child needs help with this process, please send them to me.

**James Cooper**  
**Careers Advisor**

## From the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

### Music

The Peakhurst Music program will be involved in many exciting events this year. There are numerous events to list in a short article, but as expected, our Music program will be working

towards a variety of different productions such as 'Lion King' and the very popular 'Peakform'.

There are new private Music Tutors to add to our very experienced team which visit our school on a daily basis. These tutorials offer a variety of instrumental lessons from brass, percussion, to vocals and keyboard.

We also have a number of musical ensembles which perform in a wide range of styles to ensure any student can find the performance opportunities they are seeking. Concert Band, Stage Band, Vocal Group, and our school Rock Band are just some ensembles we have established at GRC.

Music in the classroom focuses on a differentiated program. We offer a stimulating environment for experienced performers or students at a beginner's level. Students at GRC Peakhurst will have opportunities to explore their appreciation for Music through a variety of experiences from composition, performance, and listening activities.

Our Music Staff continues with Mr Holloway from last year and we would like to welcome Mr Scott Page, who is replacing Mr Reidy after he has taken on Head Teacher at GRC Penshurst Girls. Mr Page is a very experienced musician and teacher and we are excited about having him on our team at CAPA.

## NOTICE FROM CAPA

### Can I get rid of that?!

Feeling the need to do some spring cleaning early? If so, please consider donating some of your common household items to the art room! We will use any of these materials for actual art projects or for art storage.

- Magazines (for collage)
- Plastic Containers washed (butter, sour cream, yoghurt etc.)
- Old Wallpaper Books
- Design books
- Newspapers
- Coloured paper
- Wrapping paper
- That old dinosaur digital camera that still works but is terribly outdated...for our stop motion animation project and PDM classes

All of these items can be given to your child to give to the art department or simply leave in a bag at the front office.

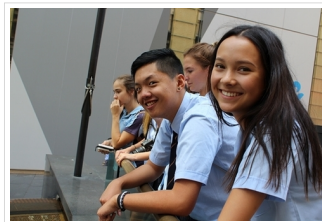
**M Walton**

## Year 10 Photography and Digital Media Excursion Report

*On the 9th February, the two Year 10 Photography and Digital Media classes were lucky enough to go on an excursion into the city to take photographs for our assessment task called 'Cityscapes'. We explored the wonderful architecture of the Queen Victoria Building, The Strand Arcade, Pitt Street Mall, walked through the streets of Martin Place, and captured the beauty of the stunning Harbour Bridge and the Opera House from Circular Quay. Everyone had an amazing time wandering*

*through the city of Sydney taking hundreds of photos to use for our assessment task. Overall, it was a fantastic trip and all of the students enjoyed it immensely. Thank you to Ms Walton and Ms Seinor for organising the excursion and taking us.*

### Alex Holley 10 PDM Y



## From the English Faculty

The teachers on the English faculty include: Ms L. Osmond, Mr P. Fisher, Ms K. Eleos, Mrs A. Talevski, Ms L. Dunstan, Ms K. Nguyen (EAL/D), Mr G. Sun (EAL/D) and Mr N. Zouroudis.

Teachers responsible for coordinating the English courses for Years 7 to 10 include:

- Year 7 English - Ms L. Osmond
- Year 8 English - Ms K. Eleos
- Year 9 English - Mr P. Fisher
- Year 10 English - Mrs A. Talevski
- EAL/D - Ms K. Nguyen (EAL/D - English as an Additional Language or Dialect)
- Head Teacher - Mr N. Zouroudis

The English faculty works very closely with Ms K. Nguyen and Mr G. Sun who are the school's EAL/D (ESL) teachers. Ms K. Nguyen is an experienced EAL/D teacher who works closely with the ESL and international students. Mr G. Sun is a recent graduate teacher who will also be teaching EAL/D students. Both EAL/D teachers work collaboratively in a team teaching environment as well as providing assistance in individual and small group settings.

The various members of the English staff offer a diverse range of experience as well as immense enthusiasm to their roles as English teachers. Mr P. Fisher is a targeted graduate who taught at Menai High School before his appointment at GRC Peakhurst. Ms L. Osmond has taught at GRC Oatley Campus as well as GRC Peakhurst Campus. Ms L. Dunstan is a recent graduate who has also taught at GRC Oatley as well as GRC Peakhurst. Mrs A. Talevski, Ms K. Eleos and Mr N. Zouroudis bring a wealth of experience to the faculty having taught Years 7 to 12 at their previous schools, including marking of the School Certificate and HSC English.

The faculty offers Debating and Public Speaking as extra-curricular activities. The teachers responsible for selecting, training and managing these teams are Ms L. Osmond and Mr P. Fisher. In recent years, the school has achieved great success in debating, highlighted by the success of our senior team which in 2015 made the state quarter finals for the Premier's Debating Challenge and achieved the title of inter-zone champions.

The English Faculty focuses on offering a differentiated curriculum which meets the needs of the diverse students in the school. In Year 7, there is a renewed focus on text types,

grammar and punctuation as well as extensive reading within the course work and through the Home Reading and Homework programs. Whilst in Year 10, the focus is on completing Stage 5 work but also on preparing students for Year 11 and 12 course work.

If parents or guardians have any questions regarding their child's progress in English, they should contact the school and speak to their child's English teacher.

**Nick Zouroudis**  
**Head Teacher English**

## From the H.S.I.E Department

The H.S.I.E (Human Society and Its Environment) faculty consists of a dedicated and innovative teaching staff. They pride themselves on their commitment to excellence and strive to encourage their students to achieve the best of their ability. In addition to the relevant subject content, the HSIE faculty focuses on developing each student's literacy, numeracy, technology and research skills. The wide range of experiences run by the HSIE faculty supports students to develop into successful 21st century global citizens.

Members of the H.S.I.E. faculty offer a wealth of teaching and life experience, as well as a dedication to education and meeting the diverse learning needs of all students. Teachers in the H.S.I.E faculty include:

- Ms H. Diamond (Head Teacher): History, Geography and Elective History
- Ms L. Francis: History and Geography
- Ms M. Hamilton: History, Geography and Commerce
- Mr M. Harris: Christian Studies
- Mr A Sarandos: History, Geography and Commerce
- Ms A. Watts: History, Geography, Commerce and the co-ordinator for the Duke of Edinburgh Award

During 2015, the H.S.I.E department saw some considerable achievements. With the faculty goal of increasing the engagement of students, an array of different strategies were implemented to encourage students achieving their potential. For example, students from the Year 8 and Year 9 Gifted and Talented class participated in the Australian Geography Competition. This competition, run by Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teacher's Association, allowed students to demonstrate their understanding of current global issues in competition with students from the public and private education system. We had great success with a record number of students receiving High Distinction, Distinction and Credit awards.

In the 2015 Year 10 Cross-Campus examination, Year 10 Geography and History students achieved some of the highest results across the college in both examinations, with student from Peakhurst achieving first place out of a cohort of over five hundred. This remarkable effort reflects the dedication and talent of HSIE staff and students at GRC Peakhurst.

2016 will be exciting year with several activities being run both inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to various

exciting and engaging student activities, Year 7 students will recreate the life of Otzi the Iceman, a 500 year old ice mummy found in the Alps, mummify tomatoes as part of their studies in Ancient Egypt and, later in the year, will create their own map for the 'Peakhurst Map Maker' competition.

In Term 3, Year 7 GAT students will be invited to attend a free full day incursion, organised and delivered by Ms Diamond. This incursion, called 'Dead Men Do Tell Tales' is an introduction to Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology (the study of human remains) and will provide students with an engaging and interactive view into the world of archaeological and forensic investigations.

Later in the year, students from Year 9 History and Elective History will be invited to attend an excursion to the Sydney Jewish Museum in Darlinghurst in line with their studies on the Holocaust and Life in Nazi Germany. We are also in the process of developing an excursion for Year 9 Commerce students, so watch this space!

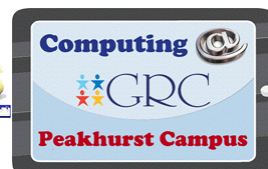
As part of their mandatory fieldwork, Year 10 Geography will spend a day at Bate Bay in March to investigate current issues related to coastal management. Also in March, Elective History students will travel to the city to attend the highly sought after Archaeology in the Rocks program. Students will have the chance to investigate areas of The Rocks of Sydney not usually open to the public.

In addition to a Mock Election and a Mock Trial, Year 10 Commerce students visit the State Parliament of New South Wales and the Police and Justice Museum in June. This excursion will supplement their studies on the Government and Law and Society topic areas.

The H.S.I.E department, under the leadership of Ms Watts, will be arranging for a new cohort of students from Year 9 and Year 10 to begin their Bronze Medal for the Duke of Edinburgh Award in 2016. This award allows students to develop leadership, resilience and commitment by acquiring a new skill, taking part in community service and undertaking a physical challenge.

**Hayley Diamond**  
**Head Teacher HSIE**

## From the Mathematics and Computing Faculty



### Mathematics and Computing Faculty for 2016

The Mathematics and Computing Faculty has seen significant changes over the past year with Ms Chua taking up a teaching position at Oatley Senior Campus, Mrs Ho taking up an opportunity outside the college, Ms De Angelis taking extended leave and Ms Stodart currently retraining in Special Education. Additionally, Mrs Verma has decided to retire after 20 years



of service. She is wished every happiness in this next exciting phase of her life.

This year, we have a total of six teachers in the faculty: (pictured below) Mrs C. Keir (Head Teacher), Ms S. Yates (Year 7 Maths Coordinator), Mr A. Lim (Year 8 Maths Coordinator), Mr J. Ndaira (Year 9 Maths Coordinator), Mr D. Smithard (Year 10 Maths Coordinator) and Mr K. Williams.



Our new team of teachers are dedicated to bridging the gap in students' understanding and application of mathematical concepts learnt whilst raising the bar in terms of student achievement and successes. We are enthusiastic about utilising innovative technology which meet both the needs of 21st Century learners and industry standards to prepare students for any senior mathematics and computing courses they may wish to pursue and for the use of skills developed in the areas of literacy, numeracy and technology beyond the classroom.

We all look forward to working closely with you and your child this year and to continue strengthening the partnership between school and home.

## Curriculum Newsletters

The Mathematics Faculty distributed its first Curriculum Newsletter for 2016 earlier this term outlining the topics being delivered during the term. An updated newsletter will be distributed to students at the beginning of each term to assist parents in further supporting their children by keeping them up to date with the course content being delivered. Parents are also encouraged to closely monitor the completion of homework and assigned tasks in preparation for assessments (as outlined in the assessment booklets already distributed) over the course of the year. Please note that all assessment task notifications will be uploaded to the school website and a push notification alert will be sent via the school app.

Students who continue to find the content too difficult are advised to speak with their classroom teacher as soon as possible, so that additional support can be provided, and are encouraged to attend the Homework Centre on Monday and/or Tuesday afternoons in the school library.

## Mathletics

Mathletics is an interactive online computer resource which the Mathematics Faculty has been incorporating into teaching, homework and assessment programs. Regular use of this online tool will help students to consolidate content taught during lessons, revise content in preparation for examinations

at home and receive assistance at any time when struggling with specific concepts. Students who do not have access to the Internet at home may use the school library during recess and lunch or arrange a time with their class teacher to use the A7 computer lab. The cost of this valuable resource remains at \$10 per student per year. If you have not already done so this year, please arrange for your child to pay \$10 at the front office as soon as possible.

## NAPLAN

NAPLAN is fast approaching for students in Year 7 and Year 9. This year the Numeracy component of NAPLAN will be held on Thursday 12th May 2016. Students are encouraged to practise as many NAPLAN-style questions as possible to familiarise themselves with the style of questioning and the format of the paper. Students will be provided with past papers and are encouraged to attempt these papers under examination conditions to best prepare for this external assessment.

## ICAS Competitions

The following competitions will be offered to students this year.

The **ICAS Digital Technologies** (formerly Computer Skills) **Competition** will be held on Tuesday 17th May 2016 while the **ICAS Mathematics Competition** will be held on Tuesday 16th August 2016. The competition is open to all students, however, it will be mandatory for all students in any Red Class (Years 7 – 10).

Any student interested in participating in the Mathematics and/or Digital Technologies competitions can pick up an information note and permission slip from their Mathematics or Computing teacher. The cost of entry (per competition) is \$8.00. Payment will need to be made to the front office and permission slips are to be returned to the Mathematics Staffroom.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding matters in Mathematics or Computing classes, please don't hesitate to contact me at school.

**Christine Keir**  
**Head Teacher Mathematics and Computing**

## From the Peer Support Coordinator

During this term, the Welfare Team has planned many exciting activities for each year group. We have had our Peer Support sessions, involving Year 7 and thirty two Year 10 Peer Support leaders. This program is considered highly valuable and rewarding for all students. The Year 7s are in small groups of between ten to twelve with two-three Year 10 Peer Support leaders. The objective of this program is to foster friendships and allow the discussion of many issues that Year 7 may be experiencing. It also creates a bond between the new students at the school with our senior students. Year 10 have also gained strong leadership skills. I would like to thank the Year 10 students for volunteering and running the program. It was a wonderful program and was effectively implemented, as it consolidated our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Aiming for Excellence.

**M. Walton**  
**Peer Support Coordinator**

Last year in Term 4, 35 Students from Year 10 volunteered to be trained as the 2016 Peer Support Leaders by Ms Walton and Ms Osmond. This year, we were all excited to start our important role working with Year 7 students and to make them feel comfortable in their transition from primary school to high school as smooth as possible. On Wednesday 10th February, we began our first session during Period 1. We were split up into 14 groups and conducted several activities such as ice breaker games so the Year 7 students and the Year 10 group leaders could get to know each other. By the end of the first session we got to know most of our groups and Year 7 got to know many new Year 7 names and formed friendships already.

The following week we had our second session on Period 2 and got started with our Peer Support booklets and played a few more ice breaker games with our groups. This week each group was really interactive and could by the end of this session name all members of their group which was pretty cool!

The following Wednesday was our third session in Period 3. In this session focused on getting to know our school and we completed activities on which teachers taught what subjects, important people to know and where to find them on the school map. We also went through the school PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) matrix and explored the PBL expectations by completing a few learning activities on what respect, responsibility and aiming for excellence.

The Peer Support Leaders are looking forward to running more sessions with this wonderful Year 7 cohort as the semester goes on.

**Angelica Esdaile-Watts and Ashley Harris**



## From the PDHPE Faculty



Ms Michael, Mrs Hill (Head Teacher PDHPE), Mr Haydar, Mr Miller (Sports Organiser) Mr Morley, Mrs Favuzzi (HT Administration & Year10 Advisor)

Welcome to another year in PDHPE at Georges River College, Peakhurst Campus. It's been an incredibly busy and productive start to the term. During Week 4, we had guest speaker Michael Crossland speak to both our Year 9 and Year 10 students, as

well as all the staff across the four campuses of our college. Michael Crossland is an extraordinary young man who has defied the odds of a life threatening cancer to build a life of exceptional achievements. Diagnosed with aggressive life threatening cancer before his first birthday, doctors told him school and sport were not options. Infection and fatigue were too great a risk. His only wish was to lead a normal life and be able to do all the things that other 'normal' kids took for granted every day. Now, an accomplished businessman, Australian of the Year finalist, Australia Day Ambassador, Camp Quality Ambassador and International Hall of Fame inductee, Michael inspires many people from all walks of life, with his story and inspiration of believing in yourself and achieving the impossible dreams. Michael has an absolute passion and belief in people's ability to change direction and become who they truly want to be and achieve success. Below is a letter written to Michael by one of our Year 10 boys after he listened to the presentation.

*Dear Michael*

*You probably might still remember me as the big panda of your presentation. My real name is Anfu Huang. I just wanted to write you this letter as a massive thank you for making your way all the way to our school to talk to us about your inspiring story.*

*Michae, what can I say or how can I start? I'm honestly still speechless after the story you told us the other day. The story you told everyone is unexplainable, while you were telling everyone about your story, tears were slowly falling out of my eyes but I ended up finding a solution not to cry!*

*I'm pretty sure you touched a lot of people's hearts and made quite a lot of people teary. You had me pretty emotional and when you scared me that was a cruel act! But oh well, it was worth it, getting scared by a living legend!*

*We did meet before your story started and you asked us what our names were and what we did and how old we were. When you found out that Kansou was the youngest among us all, that's when we all cracked up laughing. Honestly, I never knew your presentation would be such an amazing one! I thought it would be boring because every incursion we had in our school had always been boring but your one was just... I would honestly pay more than 50 dollars to just go watch you talk again.*

*You are such an amazing human being; you can honestly motivate a small snail into a big lion! You have changed my life big time, and I thought my life was hard and tough but after your talk, it's not anymore. I never knew someone could go through this much at such a young age. What you've been through is tough... real tough... if I went through what you went through I wouldn't be writing you this letter.*

*It would honestly be an honor to meet you and hear you talk again. If I had one last dying wish, I would probably want to see you again. You made my day, my week, my month, and my year! You followed me on instagram, when everyone found out that you were following me on instagram they were really shocked and jealous, they asked me, why out of everyone you chose to follow me and I told them that, because I was your little brother haha.*

*Before I end this, I would just like to say I hope you do well in the future and keep fighting and show us that you're the real*



superman! And no matter where you go, Peakhurst Campus will always be with you. You showed us not to give up and to keep on fighting. You will always be within our hearts. After the story you told us everyone started to follow you on instagram and after you posted that photo of our school, I saw the comments everyone wrote and as a school community that really made me smile. Seeing you even changed some of my friends. Before you spoke to us they were really negative about life but after your talk they really have positive thoughts and are always looking forward to tomorrow! But again, I hope you do well in the future and I would really hope to see you again someday in the future!

I'd say bye but I know deep inside my heart I'll see you again!

From: Anfu/Panda



## 2016 House Captains

Congratulations to the following students who were named 2016 House Captains

**Beachley:-** Anastasia Gaskell, Annaleise Mitreska, Rashid Bushara, Brooklyn Wu

**Goodes:-** Ashlee Day, Violet Craven-Miller, Ali Kansou, Ashley Totten

**Freeman:-** Caitlin Hale, Angelica Esdaile-Watts, Peter Christoulakis, Jordan Spasevski, Omerhan Turk

**McGrath:-** Tammy Van Steen, Thomas Cheah, Murray Bushby, Joshua Ahn

The house captains did an outstanding job at our swimming carnival organising students into races, relays and orchestrating the house chants.

The 2016 swimming carnival was a huge success with students and teachers showing their passion and commitment to their respective houses by donning their war colours! It was a steamy 30 degree day which made the marathon race the number one pick for all students and some staff! Attendance and participation was very high which made the race for house champion a close one. Swimming carnival house placing's were as follows:-



1st Place – Freeman



2nd Place – McGrath



3rd Place – Goodes



4th Place – Beachley

Good luck to the students that made it through to the zone carnival. We wish you all good luck!!!

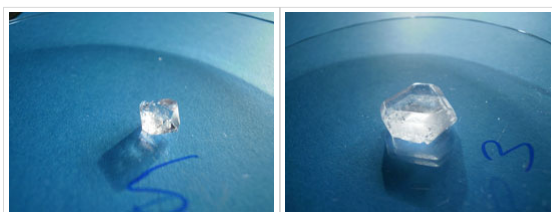


## From The Science Faculty

The Science faculty is looking forward to another year of exciting Science programs. Students have settled well into their classwork and have already undertaken a variety of practical and IT experiences. The faculty welcomes Mrs Ashfaq who has most recently been teaching at the Oatley Campus. She joins Mrs Alexander (Head Teacher), Ms Chang, Mr Smith, Ms Tamang and Mrs Wailes (Laboratory Assistant).

Some highlights of 2015 were the visit by Ruben Meerman, the 'Surfing Scientist', who showed a variety of interesting Science activities to Year 7 and explained the science about Climate Change to Year 9 students; the Year 7 Selected Enrichment Class entered crystals grown in class into the RACI Crystal Growing competition, NSW division, in which 7 out of 8 crystals made the final cut, with 4 of those crystals placing Highly Commended and the best crystal achieving 4th place; and we also had an outstanding 83 participants entered into the ICAS Science Competition with 10 students achieving a Merit result, 21 students achieving a Credit and 3 students achieving Distinction results.





Coming up later in the year are a variety of competitions and presentations. These include again the RACI Crystal Growing Competition and ICAS Science competition and for the first time we have some entries into the Big Science Competition. The exciting line up of guest presenters includes the Surfing Scientist for Year 7 in May, a new presenter, environmentalist Tim Silverwood, to talk about waste with Year 9, also in May, and a “smart comedy about Science” called STEMania for Year 8 in August.

**Michelle Alexander**  
**Head Teacher Science**



## From the Special Education Faculty

Welcome back! It has been a very hectic start to the new school year! I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our 10 new students and their families starting at GRC Peakhurst this year.

Lots of changes have occurred. Our renovations have been completed, our new classroom furniture has arrived and all Support classrooms are now freshly painted and air conditioned. Thank you to the P&C for donating the funds for part of this project! A new Support class; an IO/Autism class (the White Class) has been established and we welcome Mrs Radman, who is the class teacher and the LSLOs Mrs Spiteri and Mrs Featherstone, to the Special Education team.

Teaching the **Blue Class** this year is Miss Picone and the LSLO is Mrs Leeke. Whilst the **Red Class** is being taught by Ms

Stodart and Mrs Campion is the LSLO. Mrs Murray and myself are with the **Physical (Purple) Class**.

All of our students have received a variety of information outlining requirements, plans and programs for 2016. Thank you for your promptness with these forms being completed and already returned. Parents are also reminded to regularly check their child’s communication book as they will often contain important messages or notes from teachers.

Please write in your child’s communication book if there are changes to your son/daughter’s pick up routine in the afternoon. Similarly, if your child is on transport, please make sure that you inform the driver of any changes.

Students in the Support Unit are expected to wear correct school uniform, including shoes. No converse or canvas shoes. Wearing the correct shoes is an occupational health and safety requirement – especially when students are participating in practical subjects such as Food Technology or Design and Technology.

Individual Education Plan meetings are being held later this term. Parents have/will receive information relating to these meetings over the coming weeks and are encouraged to attend. Year 10 parents have already received information regarding these and should have received confirmation slips for appointment times. Please contact us if you need to change your appointment time.

If parents have any questions or queries, they are encouraged to contact me on 9153 9966 ext.129, write to me in your child’s communication book or call and make an appointment via the Front Office.

This term we are running an Easter raffle and guessing competition with the assistance of the SRC Roll Call. A huge thank you to Costa’s mum for all her hard work in collecting prizes and expert wrapping! Please see the flyer in this newsletter.

Last but not least, last Tuesday night was open Night. Thank you to the staff and students for making it an opportunity to showcase our Support Unit. Our SRC representatives, John and Maili were brilliant! Congratulations! We are very proud of you both.

**Don’t forget to check our school website and download the school app!**

PS Camp is looming.....30 sleeps!!!

**Peta Holm**  
**Head Teacher Special Education**

## SRC News

Welcome back to 2016! I am looking forward to a great year with my SRC team. Your 2016 SRC were officially inducted into the SRC in Week 3 at Formal Assembly. They recited the SRC pledge as follows:

As a member of the GRC Peakhurst SRC I will :

- Wear my uniform and badge with pride as a student leader within my school.



- Model positive leadership by always following the school rules and helping others do the same.
- Work closely with the staff of GRC Peakhurst to contribute to and participate in decision making and event organisation within my school and
- Actively represent the student body by providing ideas and opinions and contribute these ideas at SRC meetings.



### Congratulations to:

|  |
|--|
| <b>SUPPORT</b><br>Maillee Lindberg<br>John Martello  |
| <b>YEAR 7</b><br>TBA   |
| <b>YEAR 8</b><br>Ally Clift<br>Valandou Contzonis<br>Dimitriy Esdaile-Watts<br>Jackson Hall Best<br>Andee Hardie<br>Jeremy Hockings  |
| <b>YEAR 9</b><br>Jack Appleby<br>Kirsten Beccaris<br>Tallis Brown<br>Estrella Burgess<br>James Delios<br>Luka Djeric<br>Julie Khuyag<br>Alexis Malizis                                       |
| <b>YEAR 10</b><br>Isaac Cooper<br>Stellios Gletos<br>Nikhil Kumar<br>Lauren Manners<br>Erica O'Brien<br>Tamara Reynolds<br>Caleb Round<br>Rhys Sandy<br>Charlotte Sutton<br>Mariah Vergoulis |

Congratulations to these students who are already displaying outstanding leadership and communication skills.

SRC also represented our school at our recent Swimming Carnival, wearing their house colours proudly and participating in events as well as assisting in the running of the day.



In Week 5 our annual Open Night was held, where SRC and many other students led tours, answered questions, greeted parents and worked tirelessly until 9pm that night! Our night could not run so beautifully without you so thank you again for your efforts.

Also in Week 5, Tamara Reynolds and Caleb Round (our School Captains) and Erica O'Brien and Stellios Gletos (our Vice Captains) attended Parliament House and Question Time in the city. Can you believe they attended this excursion, came straight back to school for their Open Night responsibilities and then woke up bright and early for Year 7 Camp the following morning? What dedicated leaders they are!

We were also recently acknowledged for our contribution to the Starlight Foundation Toy Drive last year where many sick children in hospital were given some of our brand new toys to ensure they had a brighter holiday period. Thank you to the whole GRC Peakhurst community for their generosity to this important cause.



### Important dates for the diary:

World's Greatest Shave and Crazy Hair Day – Friday  
11th March

Harmony Day – Monday 21st March

SRC Training and Planning Day – Tuesday 8th March in the library. Students are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing for the day and will have different break times to the rest of the school. The aim is to foster team building skills, leadership skills and event organisation for 2016.

Please feel free to bring any ideas you have for our school to your SRC members to bring up in our meetings.

**Lauren Osmond**  
**SRC Coordinator**



## Student Leadership Opportunity

During Term 1, I asked for expressions of interest from any student in Years 7-10, who would be interested in forming a Student Wellbeing Committee. So far, these students have had 2 meetings and are in the process of organising events around the school, which focus on positive mental health and wellbeing of young people.

Angelica Esdaile-Watts and Brennan Head both in Year 10, have been leading this group of students and have had the opportunity to address the school body at the last formal assembly in week 3 Term and during our outdoor assemblies every Monday and Wednesday. Here is their speech. Well done Guys!

Hi,

*I'm Brennan and this is Angelica. We are here to speak to you about the Wellbeing Committee. We, as a school, are very interested in supporting the welfare of students at GRC Peakhurst Campus. We are asking students, if you would like to be involved from all years, to join our team. We meet every Tuesday at Recess time in room B9 with Ms Walton. This would be a great Leadership opportunity to be part of.*

*We, as a school, are very interested in supporting various foundations, such as Beyond Blue, Head Space, Harmony Day, White Ribbon and many more, as the year goes on. As a committee, we would like to organise events such as fundraising for these organisations and raise awareness about supporting mental health. Once again if you would like to be involved, join us next Tuesday and let's get started.*

*If you would like more information either speak to either Angelica or myself or Ms Walton.*

**By Angelica Esdaile-Watts and Brennan Head Year 10 students and Leaders of the Students Wellbeing Committee and PBL committee.**

## From the TAS Department



The Tas department has had several staff changes this year. Mr Geoff Taylor has retired after 37 years teaching at this school. He will be deeply missed for his contribution as computer

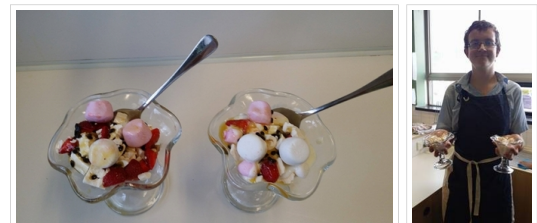
coordinator as well as a skilled tradesman and educator. His students were privileged to have been taught skills in wood that they carry through into their adult life.

Mr Taylor has been replaced by Ms Beatriz and she is joined by Mr Devine who transferred last semester after teaching in Victoria for the last decade. Mr Devine has introduced Electronics as an elective in Year 9 and it has proven to be a popular subject so stay tuned for examples of the student projects in future editions of our school newsletter. Mrs Seidel, will continue to teach Child Studies, Support and Food Technology while I will continue to teach Textiles and Food Technology.

Mrs Willis has also left us for the year, undertaking maternity leave. We wish her and her family all the best with their addition to her family. Ms Testa will be replacing Mrs Willis.

Last year was a productive year for the TAS department with the quality of student projects in all courses being innovative and of excellent quality. We predict that standards will continue to rise this year and student will be very productive. This Year 10 Food will be involved in more opportunities including catering, preparing morning teas and catering for events such as Lion King for Year 7. A Master Chef competition is also on the cards for students in Elective Food. Elective Wood will also be undertaking some new projects such as making billy carts.

## Year 10 Food Technology



Year 10 Food Technology have begun the year creatively with the presentation of their first practical – Eton Mess! The Hospitality students will be involved in many catering occasions this term, beginning with open night and numerous morning teas!

Exciting times ahead this term with our very own Year 10 “Peakfeast” occurring in Week 10 this term. Year 10’s very first masterchef competition is sure to display the amazing array of talent we hold within our school. Notes will be sent home closer to the date.

**Michelle Seidel**  
**Food Technology Teacher**

## Aboriginal Education News

At the end of 2015, students from Oatley, Penshurst Girls joined us for our last campfire meeting where we discussed ideas for 2016 with the assistance of Aunty Faye Carrol and Tianna Fatnowna (Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer from Arncliffe regional office).

Among the ideas the students had, was the initiation of a Koori room (which is yet to be named) which may be utilised by the students at lunch and recess to do homework, assessment tasks or as a gathering place for our Koori students to feel safe

and connected with each other. This room is now in operation in D block and the students are starting to utilise their time there.

Our first Formal Assembly for 2016 was kicked off with a short speech made by Violet Craven Miller addressing 'Sorry Day' speaking on behalf of the Aboriginal elders past and present, community members and students of Georges River College.

Applications for Indigenous Winter School Program are open these close on the 8th April 2016.

SCHOOL DRAMA WORKSHOP - 3 students have been nominated to attend.

### Upcoming events for Term 1

- Harmony Day planning day (8th March)
- Personal Learning Pathways for year 9 & 10 students (18 March)
- HARMONY DAY CELEBRATIONS (21 March)
- Installation of a new flag pole to fly our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags (date to be confirmed).
- Beginning phase of the Installation of our Bush Tucker Garden.

## Girls Supervisor News

This year, Karitane Talking Realities Presentation for Year 9 girls will again run and is booked for Tuesday 5th April, 2016. This is a fabulous education program for our girls. All Year 9 girls should have their notes for the incursion which should be returned to Ms Seidel or Ms Seinor as soon as possible in the next 2 weeks along with their \$5. If parents have any questions regarding the program they can contact Michelle Seinor (Girls' Supervisor) or Michelle Senior at [michelle.a.seinor@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:michelle.a.seinor@det.nsw.edu.au) or [Michelle.seidel@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Michelle.seidel@det.nsw.edu.au) or by phoning the school.

Year 8 & 9 Girls 15s Oztag team started the year off well with teams A & B winning their preliminary games, wonderful talented young women who are motivated to always do their best

## From the Administration Office

From our Administration Staff welcome back to the New Year and in particular to our new families that have joined us this year. As it's the start of the year I thought I would mention a couple of our requirements and information you may or may not be aware of:

Please always:

- Inform our office if there is a change in your contact details – address, emergency contacts and most importantly any changes in phone numbers – home, work and emergency.
- Provide updated information to us as soon as possible if your child has been diagnosed with a medical condition that requires immediate treatment should an emergency arise.

- Always put your child's given name and surname and their year on all notes being returned to the school – absentee notes, excursion permission notes.
- Make sure you leave your name and contact number to be called back on if leaving a message on our answering machine.

For your information:

- School fees 'Statement of Account' will be sent out in the next few weeks for payment by the 30th March this year.
- School fees, if necessary, may be paid off throughout the year.
- Sport choices, excursion/incursion fees must be paid in full before attending the activity.
- Fees sheets for each year are also on our website.

**Carmel O'Shea**

**School Administrative Manager**

## School Photographs

School photographs will be taken on Friday 4th March. Order envelopes and a letter giving further details should have already been sent home. If you have not received these, a limited number of copies are available from the front office. It is vital that these envelopes are only returned on the 4th March with the correct money and handed directly to the photographers. Parents will also be able to pay online before this date. When parents pay online before photo day the envelope is still required to be brought to school on the 4th March and handed to the photographers. Please note that phone orders will incur a processing fee of \$5. Late orders will not be accepted by the school but parents can contact the photographic company direct to make a late order.

These photographs are a formal record of your child's school years and as such, it is expected that proper school uniform is worn. Please ensure that there are no coloured t-shirts under the school shirts and that correct black leather shoes are worn. Jewellery should be as described in the school uniform code and make-up discreet. No student who has unnatural coloured hair (pink, lilac, green, blue etc.) will be allowed to take part in the year photo. Thank you for your help in this area.

**Sandra Baker**

**Librarian**